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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please consider the claims as follows:

1-57. (cancelled)

58. (new) A wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) network comprising:

a plurality of fiber-optic rings;

a plurality of terminal nodes, each terminal node comprising a main receiver, a redundant receiver, a main transmitter, and a redundant transmitter for each optical carrier associated with the terminal node; and

a plurality of hub nodes coupling said fiber-optic rings, each hub node comprising at least one apparatus adapted for receiving and transmitting information at one optical carrier of a plurality of optical carriers associated with the fiber-optic rings coupled by the hub node;

wherein said fiber-optic rings are coupled using at least one redundant hub node.

59. (new) The network of claim 58 wherein said nodes are coupled using at least one optical fiber pair having a first fiber and a second fiber.

60. (new) The network of claim 59 wherein said apparatus comprises:
a first receiver of the information carried, at said one optical carrier, by the first fiber;

a second receiver of the information carried, at said one optical carrier, by the second fiber;

a transmitter for transmitting the information, at said one optical carrier, on the second optical fiber,

a splitter of an optical power of a signal carried by said one optical carrier; and

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a first selector selectively switching said one optical carrier from the first fiber to the second fiber.

61. (new) The network of claim 60 wherein the splitter couples a first portion of the power to the first receiver and couples a second portion of the power to a section of the first fiber extending to a downstream node of a fiber-optic ring.

62. (new) The network of claim 60 wherein an output of the first receiver is coupled to a first input of the first selector.

63. (new) The network of claim 60 wherein an output of the second receiver is coupled to a second input of the first selector.

64. (new) The network of claim 60 wherein an input of the transmitter is coupled to a first output of the first selector.

65. (new) The network of claim 60 wherein the first selector couples an output of the first receiver to an input of the transmitter when the apparatus and a section of the first fiber between the splitter and a downstream node are operable.

66. (new) The network of claim 60 wherein the first selector couples an output of the first receiver to an input of the transmitter when the second receiver becomes inoperable or there is a cut in a section of the first fiber between the splitter and a downstream node of a fiber-optic ring.

67. (new) The network of claim 60 wherein the first selector terminates an output of the first receiver and couples an output of the second receiver to an input of the transmitter when the first receiver becomes inoperable.

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68. (new) The network of claim 58 wherein the terminal node further comprises a second selector selectively switching said one optical carrier between the first fiber and the second fiber.
69. (new) The network of claim 68 wherein an input of the main receiver is coupled to an output of the first fiber and an output of the main receiver is coupled to a first input of the second selector.
70. (new) The network of claim 68 wherein an input of the redundant receiver is coupled to an output of the second fiber and an output of the redundant receiver is coupled to a second input of the second selector.
71. (new) The network of claim 68 wherein an input of the main transmitter is coupled to a first output of the second selector and an input of the redundant transmitter is coupled to a second output of the second selector.
72. (new) The network of claim 68 wherein the second selector couples an output of the main receiver to an input of the main transmitter and couples an output of the redundant receiver to an input of the redundant transmitter when the terminal node and upstream and downstream sections of the first and second fibers are operable.
73. (new) The network of claim 68 wherein the second selector couples an output of the main receiver to an input of the redundant transmitter when the main transmitter or a section of the first fiber between the main transmitter and a downstream node is inoperable.
74. (new) The network of claim 68 wherein the second selector couples an output of the redundant receiver to an input of the main transmitter when the main receiver or a section of the first fiber between the main receiver and an upstream node is inoperable.

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